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## **SRP Announces Plans for Cragin Reservoir Operations Repairs on Existing Pipeline Complete; Flows to East Verde River Resume**

The C.C. Cragin Reservoir and associated facilities are back in the water-delivery business following the completion of the final phase of a four-year modernization process to bring the water-collection and diversion project, formerly named Blue Ridge Reservoir, in compliance with current operational and safety standards.

Salt River Project, which operates and maintains the Cragin Dam and Reservoir for the Bureau of Reclamation, recently began pumping water from the reservoir – located on the Mogollon Rim near Clints Well – to the East Verde River near Washington Park, about 13 miles northeast of Payson, for the first time since August.

Cragin Project Manager Tom Sands said the water releases, which are averaging about 26 cubic feet per second (12,000 gallons per minute), are expected to continue until this fall. Cragin Reservoir, which has a storage capacity of 15,000 acre-feet, was 100 percent full earlier this year and is currently about 83 percent full.

Sands said SRP's plan this year is to resume historic system operations of moving water from the reservoir to the East Verde River, gradually lower the reservoir elevation by another 27 feet by Labor Day and then another 33 feet by late fall before the pumping system is shut down for the winter. Operational models suggest this plan will reduce the lake's surface area from about 240 acres this week to about 160 acres by early September.

Completed in late April, the \$13.3 million C.C. Cragin modernization project included the following work:

- \$5.4 million in repairs to the 10-mile, 33-inch diameter steel pipeline that delivers water from the reservoir to the East Verde River. The work included the repair or replacement of 22 sections of exposed pipe, equipment that needed immediate attention because below-zero winter temperatures over the years had caused the pipe's inner concrete lining to deteriorate and the pipe to shrink, forcing leaks when the pipeline was filled each spring.

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- \$2 million in repairs and upgrades to the 3,000-horsepower C.C. Cragin Pumping Plant, which delivers water from its location near the 6-mile-long, horseshoe-shaped reservoir to the East Verde River. Three of the eight water pumps were replaced, the pumping pit roof was rebuilt to allow pumps to be serviced from above, and upgrades were made to the site fence and power poles.
- \$2.5 million in repairs and upgrades to the C.C. Cragin Hydrogeneration Facility, which generates almost 3 megawatts of electricity to run the pumping plant. At the facility in Washington Park, the generator and needle flow control valve were rebuilt, a turbine wheel was replaced and other communication and control equipment were either replaced or modernized to meet current SRP and industry standards.
- \$400,000 in repairs and upgrades at C.C. Cragin Dam.
- \$3 million in other repairs and upgrades to other supporting equipment such as water tanks and power lines, survey, grading, drainage and security improvements, and other administrative-related expenses.

The Cragin Dam and Reservoir are located on East Clear Creek, about 25 miles northeast of Payson in Coconino County and 125 miles northeast of Phoenix. The reservoir's watershed encompasses 71 square miles of prime high-altitude forestland, collecting runoff from melting snow pack in the late winter and spring.

Named the Blue Ridge Water Project before it was acquired in February 2005 from the Phelps Dodge Corp., the project was renamed as part of the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2004 for Charles C. Cragin, SRP's general superintendant in the 1920s and 1930s who is remembered for expanding SRP's water-storage system.

Originally completed in 1965 at a cost of \$7.2 million, the C.C. Cragin Water Project is located in both the Coconino and Tonto National Forests. In addition to improving the water-supply situation in northern Gila County in accordance with the Arizona Water Settlements Act, the project is also satisfying obligations to the Gila River Indian Community and supplementing SRP shareholders' water supply in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Bruce Hallin, SRP's manager of Water Rights & Contracts, said the Cragin project is an example of how partnerships among communities and various entities can help resolve water challenges in rural Arizona. "SRP's acquisition of C.C. Cragin," he said, "was essential for Payson to establish a sustainable and renewable water supply."

In addition to Blue Ridge Reservoir in 1965, Phelps Dodge also built Show Low Lake in 1952 to meet its need for additional water. Phelps Dodge and SRP entered a water-exchange agreement in 1962 to allow for diversions and exchanges of water from these facilities. This 1962 agreement confirmed each party's respective water rights in the watersheds of the Salt, Verde and Gila rivers and also provided SRP with the opportunity to acquire Blue Ridge Reservoir and its water-production facilities.

More information about the C.C. Cragin Reservoir is available at [www.watershedmonitor.com](http://www.watershedmonitor.com), where SRP provides water-resource information to the public as well as watershed stakeholders, and at <http://www.srpnet.com/water/dams/cragin.aspx>.

SRP is the largest provider of water and power to the greater Phoenix metropolitan area.